



This handout is a guide to share information regarding deadlines, events and software version release dates. The intended audience is PCHA and FPA-PM application users. New FPA updates, changes and work arounds to PCHA and FPA-PM are listed below. Web site links relative to the software updates are also included.

### New Release Dates and Content for PCHA and FPA-PM

- **New PCHA Version 1.2.20** is available to download. The newest version can be found on the web in the following locations: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/nfmas-beta/> or visit the FPA website, choose [FPA Implementation Team and Guidance](#) and then under **Field Tools and Examples** choose **Current link to PCHA 99**.

**Note:** FPA-PM users need to ensure they are using the compatible version of PCHA and PM releases. An error message will occur indicating a newer version of PCHA must be used when an incompatible version attempts to import a PCHA, XML, and Fire Event Scenario into FPA-PM. Each time new business requirements are developed within FPA-PM that relates to the Fire Event Scenario, a new version of PCHA is developed to accommodate these changes.

- **Latest Release notes:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/nfmas-beta/FPA-HA.htm>

**The Desert Research Institute** is tasked with developing quality weather data for FPA analysis. Please visit the following website for additional information regarding this effort. [http://fpa.nifc.gov/Library/DRIQCQA\\_FPA\\_v2.pdf](http://fpa.nifc.gov/Library/DRIQCQA_FPA_v2.pdf). To extract the downloaded files, you must use WinZip. **pkzip does not work!**

### FPA-PM Version 1.1 Attribute Field Requirements

- **For the FMU Polygon data layer** to work correctly with the FPA-PM Version 1.1, certain data fields must be included in the attribute table. Supplemental to what was needed for previous version of FPA-PM, additional fields containing Wildland Fire Use (WFU) parameters are now included.
- **Wildland Fire Use Fields:** If the "IsWFU" data field is designated as "True", meaning that the FMU allows Wildland Fire Use, then the fields pertaining to the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) must be populated.
- Depending on whether data is in "NFDRSIndex" field, the "BI\_Limit" (Burn Index Limit) or the "ERC" (Energy Release Component Limit) must have corresponding values.

### Seven Steps to Building Shapefiles

- These steps will guide your GIS Specialist through the shapefile creation process. [http://fpa.nifc.gov/Implementation/Creating\\_FMU\\_shapefile\\_PM\\_05\\_02\\_04.doc](http://fpa.nifc.gov/Implementation/Creating_FMU_shapefile_PM_05_02_04.doc)

## FPA-PM Troubleshooting

- **No Mechanical Constraint:** When an FMU is shown as “no mechanical” or “no ground” for a constraint, (such as a Wilderness Area), the model will not use engines or any ground based equipment on ignitions in those FMUs. With either of those constraints, engine crews that could convert to hand crews and walk-in to the fires would not be used.  
**The work around is:** Remove the constraints for ‘no mechanical’ and “no ground” from those FMUs and change the FMU to 100 percent walk-in. You will need to add those constraints if you want to prevent dozers and/or tractor plows from responding to those FMUs.
- FPA-PM offers three options for entering in latitude/longitude for dispatch locations. When entered in degrees and seconds the system makes an incorrect decimal degree conversion.  
**The work around is:** enter the latitude/longitude for dispatch locations using decimal degrees to avoid the transformation error.
- **Entering state participants:** A problem has been noted in the current software release when attempting to enter state FPU Participants. The problem occurs if only one "unit" is listed in the dropdown box. If two or more units show a selection can be made and saved. The problem should be fixed in the next release.

## WUI Defined for Common Currency in FPA Weighting Process

The University of Wisconsin- Madison’s Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability (SILVIS), has developed an ARC-IMS (ESRI) GIS data layer that maps WUI across the contiguous 48 states. Their definition for WUI is based on the Federal Register and the California Fire Alliance standards. See their website for further details:

[http://www.silvis.forest.wisc.edu/projects/WUI\\_Main.asp](http://www.silvis.forest.wisc.edu/projects/WUI_Main.asp)

The definition cited above is to be used for purposes of the FPA analysis, but does not override other WUI definitions that may be used for other planning purposes.

FPU’s that have already gone through the weighting process will not be required to go back to redo the weighting analysis work to incorporate the new currency. However, all FPU’s will use the WUI common currency attribute next year when determining weights for FY08 analysis.

- For specific direction and background read the white paper at:  
[http://fpa.nifc.gov/Library/WP\\_Defining\\_Common\\_Attribute\\_2005\\_1\\_31.pdf](http://fpa.nifc.gov/Library/WP_Defining_Common_Attribute_2005_1_31.pdf)
- Some FPU’s may have higher resolution or more current data, and in those cases, local fire planning units may use current local data to calculate their WUI acres, as long as it conforms to the criteria defined in the white paper and the source data is authoritative (e.g. housing density supported by County Assessor records).
- The SILVIS application and maps will be the default and authoritative source for those units that do not have higher resolution data.